

E-Teacher Scholarship Program 2012-13

Teaching English to Young Learners (TEYL)

OFFERED BY UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, LINGUISTICS DEPT./AMERICAN ENGLISH INSTITUTE

The Office of English Language Programs of the U.S. State Department is offering this 10-week online teacher training for eligible candidates. The course will introduce the most recent English language teaching methods and techniques, offer the opportunity to engage in an innovative distance-learning program that employs the latest in modern technology, and provide direct access to U.S. experts with whom participants might not normally have the opportunity to interact.

Course Description

Students ages 5-10 are cognitively “primed” to acquire English in an integrated skills and content-based, experiential approach. Educators who understand the cognitive and social processes of language acquisition for Teaching English to Young Learners (TEYL) are better equipped to help learners while also creating a fun, positive environment. In many cases, TEYL educators in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) settings have limited time to reach their teaching goals and meet local requirements on the use of specific texts, tests or other materials. A low-resource environment can also pose challenges. In this course, participants explore solutions for such challenges through an overview of current research and “best” practices (always context-dependent) for TEYL, plus hands-on experimentation with a wide array of freely available online resources. Participants can also opt to identify resources and create final projects for tweens (“pre-teens,” ages 10-12).

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify, evaluate and selectively apply a wide variety of stimulating and age-appropriate materials (e.g., read-along texts, audio, songs, video, hands-on manipulatives, games, puzzles, realia) to existing or new EFL curriculum, tailored to learners’ needs and interests.
- Effectively apply strategies to motivate and manage classroom-based language activities for young learners, with a “tool set” for rewarding desired individual and group behaviors.
- Conduct a needs analysis, develop a learner profile, and then develop lesson/unit plans for young learners in a specific local context. This may also include the amassing of a collection of new resources and materials for strategic application to the local TEYL-related context.
- Clearly articulate language learning goals and appropriately aligned measures to justify and evaluate any new approaches, activities and/or materials applied to local contexts.

Requirements

Candidates should be highly motivated in-service EFL educators at the **primary level** or teacher trainers who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues. In addition, they should:

- Have high intermediate to advanced level English language proficiency in all skill areas (approximately 525 TOEFL), particularly reading and writing.
- Have access 4-5 times per week minimum to reliable computers with high-speed Internet.
- Have basic technology skills for email, the Web (e.g., searches, downloads, uploads, managing of course logins/passwords) and file management (e.g., PDF, MS Word/Excel).